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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/596,193	06/02/2006	Noriyuki Tajima	P30030	3321

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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 ROLAND CLARKE PLACE
RESTON, VA 20191

EXAMINER

LEUNG, PHILIP H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3742

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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08/15/2007

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

gbpatent@gbpatent.com
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Office Action Summary**Application No.**

10/596,193

Applicant(s)

TAJIMA ET AL.

Examiner

Philip H. Leung

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 June 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>8-29-2006</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The drawings filed 6-2-2006 are acceptable.
2. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.
3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

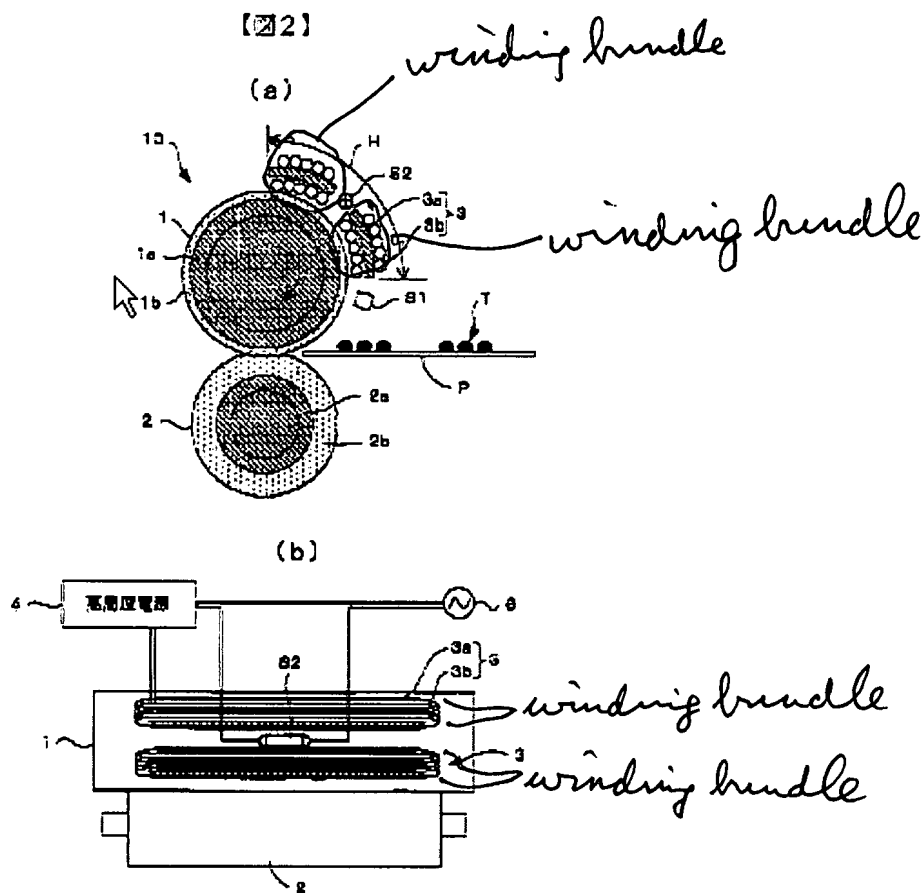
(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 6, 7, 10, 12, 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ricoh (JP 2003-017221) (cited by the applicant).

Ricoh shows a heating apparatus comprising: an exciting coil 3b made up of a plurality of windings of a conductor wire for generating a magnetic field; a heating element (1c of roller 1) that is heated by means of electromagnetic induction through an action of the magnetic field; and an abnormally high temperature detection section S2 that detects that said heating element reaches an abnormally high temperature, wherein: said heating element is made up of a body (roller 1) of rotation which moves with respect to said exciting coil; said exciting coil is wound along the axial direction of the body of rotation and disposed so as to face the outer surface of the body of rotation; and said abnormally high temperature detection section is disposed on the same side as said exciting coil with respect to said heating element and between winding

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bundles of the conductor wire of said exciting coil (see Figures 1-10 and the English abstract). It is submitted that claimed limitation "temperature detection section is disposed on the same side as said exciting coil with respect to said heating element and between winding bundles of the conductor wire of said exciting coil" does not define over the location of S2 in Ricoh. For instance, as shown in Figures 2(a), 2(b), 5(a), 5(b) and 8, the temperature sensor S2 is clearly located between winding bundles of the coil 3 (see markings below).



There is no limitation that requires the temperature sensor be "disposed inside the coil windings".

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5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claims 2-5, 8, 9, 11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ricoh (JP 2003-017221), in view of Matsushita (JP 2001-188430) or Canon (JP 8-16006) (both cited by the applicant).

As pointed out above, Ricoh shows an induction image fixing apparatus having every feature and structure as claimed except for the explicit showing of the core structure for the induction heating coil. Matsushita discloses a heating device equipped with a center core, which is configured from a ferromagnetic member that is disposed at the center of the windings of the excitation coil, and side cores, which are configured from ferromagnetic members that are disposed on the outsides of the winding bundles of the excitation coil (see Figures and the English abstract). Canon also shows a heating device wherein the means for detecting abnormal temperatures is sandwiched between the core and the excitation coil by means of the side parts of the winding bundles of the excitation coil (see all Figures and the English abstract). It would

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have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Ricoh to use any suitable magnetic cores with the induction coils to better shape the magnetic flux for better heating efficiency and result, in view of the teaching of Matsushita or Canon. The exact core arrangement would have been a matter of engineering expediencies depending on the overall structure of the heating roller and the induction coil.

7. Nitsche et al (US 6,495,811) is further cited to show an induction image heating device with temperature sensors 37a, 37b, 37c between coil bundles 32a, 32b and 32c.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Philip H. Leung whose telephone number is (571) 272-4782.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tu Hoang can be reached on (571)-272-4780. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Philip H Leung
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3742

P.Leung/pl
8-3-2007